Customs duty on edible oilseeds

3875. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers of Kerala growing coconut and edible oilseeds are affected due to changes in custom duty on edible oils;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how the Government propose to compensate the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Government of Kerala has informed that the changes made by the Government in the minor-policy on edible oils has affected the coconut farmers and therefore, requested to restore the tariff on import of palm oil to previous levels and permit export of coconut oil.

Accordingly, restrictions on exports of Coconut Oil have been lifted for exports through Cochin Port. The Government has also exempted from this export ban certain other oils produced from minor forest products with effect from 01.04.2008.

Ban on export of wheat

3876. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Government has extended the ban on export of wheat and other agriculture products for an indefinite period, in view of the acute shortage of foodgrains in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Export of wheat & wheat products has been banned with effect from 09.02.2007 until further orders. The export of non-basmati rice has been banned from 01.04.2008. Ban on export of pulses, effective from 22.06.2006 (except export of Kabuli Chana with effect from 07.03.2007), has been extended upto 31.03.2009. Export of edible oils, except coconut oil through Kochi Port, has been prohibited upto 31.03.2009.

Results of Foreign Trade Policy, 2004—09

3877. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Trade Policy, 2004—09 has produced the desired results in various sectors and promoted trade in those sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some mid-term evaluation of the policy has been conducted by the union Government; and